

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 484

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP, FR

SUBJ: FRANCO/SPANISH RELATIONS AND CARRERO

BLANCO ASSASSINATION

REF: MADRID 6068

1. SUMMARY: FRANCO/SPANISH RELATIONS HAVE TAKEN TURN FOR WORSE WITH OFFICIAL FRENCH DECISION NOT TO EXTRADITE SPANISH CITIZENS WANTED FOR MURDER OF FORMER PRESIDENT CARRERO BLANCO. BESIDES WARRANTS FOR FOREGOING TEN, GOS HAS ARRESTED TWO OTHER ACCOMPLICES IN MURDER WHO ALSO WERE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN SEPT 13 BOMBING IN MADRID. THIRD WARRANT HAS ALSO BEEN ISSUED FOR FOUR OTHER SPANISH BASQUES ALLEGEDLY IMPLICATED IN ASSASSINATION. END SUMMARY

2. OFFICIAL SPANISH NEWS AGENCY EFE INFORMED PRESS NOV 18 THAT MFA, THROUGH SPANISH EMBASSY IN PARIS, HAD RECEIVED GOF OFFICIAL REPLY TO THREE EARLIER SPANISH EMBASSY NOTES DATED JANUARY 23, AUGUST 21, AND NOV 4, 1974, REQUESTING EXTRADITION OF TEN SPANISH CITIZENS FOR WHOM ARREST WARRANTS HAD BEEN ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH ASSASSINATION DEC 20, 1973 OF PRESIDENT CARRERO BLANCO. GOF SAID IT COULD NOT COMPLY WITH SPANISH REQUESTS BECAUSE ARTICLE 3

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OF SPANISH/FRENCH EXTRADITION TREATY OF 1877 PROVIDED THAT

EXTRADITION WAS EXCLUDED FOR POLITICAL CRIMES. GOF ALSO REFERRED TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO RESPECT FRENCH CONSTITUTION, 1951, INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AND UN RESOLUTION OF 1967 WITH RESPECT TO ASYLUM. AT SAME TIME GOF REASSURED GOS OF ITS DESIRE, IN INTEREST OF GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS, TO EXERCISE VIGILANCE IN FRANCE TO PREVENT CRIMINAL ACTS FROM BEING COMMITTED IN SPAIN. GOF ALSO SAID IT WOULD SEE THAT SPANISH REFUGEES IN NEIGHBORING DEPARTMENTS IN FRANCE WOULD NOT ABUSE PRIVILEGES REQUIRED UNDER BOTH FRENCH LAW AND INTERNATIONAL LAW.

3. SPANISH NEWSPAPERS NOV 20 REPORT THAT "COMPETENT SOURCES" SAY THAT FRENCH REPLY TO SPANISH REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION REPRESENTS "AN UNNEIGHBORLY POLICY." EDITORIAL IN "YA" (INDEPENDENT) NOV 20 POINTS OUT THAT UNGA RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN 1965 AND 1970 PROHIBITED STATES FROM TOLERATING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES OR TERRORISM DESTINED TO CHANGE BY VIOLENCE THE REGIME OF ANOTHER

STATE. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, HOWEVER, THAT FRENCH REPLY WAS POSITIVE INsofar AS IT PROMISED INTERNAL SUPERVISION OF ACTIVITIES OF SPANISH REFUGEES IN FRENCH BORDER AREA. ACCORDING TO WELL-KNOWN POLITICAL OBSERVER, LUIS APOSTUA, PROBLEM OF SPANISH REFUGEES AND BASQUE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT (ETA) IS LIKELY TO BURDEN ANY FUTURE FRENCH/ SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS.

4. ATTORNEY GENERAL OF SPANISH SUPREME COURT PRESENTED ANNUAL REPORT TO GOVT SEPT 16, 1974 CONTAINING INITIAL CONCLUSIONS OF INVESTIGATION IN ASSASSINATION OF CARRERO BLANCO. REPORT NOTES THAT ARREST WARRANTS HAD BEEN ISSUED FOR TEN PERSONS JAN 9, 1974, AND THAT THESE BASQUES HAD TAKEN REFUGE IN FRANCE WHERE GOS HAD SOUGHT EXTRADITION. A SECOND WARRANT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED NOV 1974 FOR GENOVEVA FOREST AND ANTONIO DURAN VELASCO FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN EARLIER PLANS TO KIDNAP CARRERO BLANCO AND FOR HAVING GIVEN REFUGE TO LATTER'S ASSASSINS. BOTH FOREST AND DURAN WERE ALLEGEDLY MEMBERS OF SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY AND HAD EXTENSIVE LINKS WITH ETA. FOREST WAS ALSO ACCUSED OF HAVING CARRIED OUT ETA

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DIRECTIVE TO PREPARE DRAFT FOR BOOK ENTITLED "OPERATION OGRO" RELATING HOW ASSASSINATION WAS CARRIED OUT. THIS BOOK WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED IN FRANCE ALTHOUGH FRENCH GOVT REPORTEDLY INTERVENED SUBSEQUENTLY TO HOLD UP CIRCULATION (REFTEL). A THIRD ARREST WARRANT WAS ISSUED MORE RECENTLY FOR FOUR BASQUES WHO ALLEGEDLY WERE ALSO IMPLICATED IN CARRERO BLANCO ASSASSINATION.

5. COMMENT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF EFFORTS TO APPREHEND ASSASSINS OF CARRERO BLANCO HAS BEEN INTERMITTENT IN THE PAST TEN MONTHS AS AFFAIR SEEMS TO HAVE LOST MUCH OF ITS NEWSWORTHINESS. SOME OBSERVERS HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT ASSASSINATION, EVEN THOUGH IT TOOK PLACE ONLY AT END OF LAST YEAR, SEEMED AS IF IT HAD TAKEN PLACE YEARS AGO. OTHER OBSERVERS ARE CONCERNED THAT THERE HAS BEEN SO LITTLE PUBLIC FEELING ABOUT ASSASSINATION AND LACK OF INTEREST IN APPREHENSION OF ASSASSINS, SEEING PUBLIC APATHY AS ARISING FROM WIDELY HELD SUSPICION THAT TRUE STORY OF ASSASSINATION HAS NOT AND WILL NEVER BE REVEALED.

6. GOS HAS ONLY RECENTLY IMPLICATED INDIVIDUALS WITH ALLEGED COMMUNIST PARTY CONNECTIONS IN ASSASSINATION. SOME SPANISH OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THIS IS MERELY A GOVT ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS COMMUNIST PARTY BY LINKING IT WITH TERRORISM, BOTH TO THE CARRERO BLANCO ASSASSINATION AND THE SEPT 13 MADRID BOMBING.

7. GOS CAN BE EXPECTED TO ALLOW MEDIA AND COMMENTATORS FREE REIN IN CRITIZING FRENCH GOVT FOR ITS LACK OF UNDERSTANDING IN AREA WHICH IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO SPANIARDS, NAMELY, ACTIVITIES OF SPANISH BASQUES IN USING FRANCE AS A SAFEHAVEN. GOS INTENT ON SEEING WHOLE ISSUE IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM DEFINABLE AS COMMON CRIMES, WHEREAS GOVT CONTINUES TO VIEW BASQUE NATIONALISTS' TERRORISM AS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND A POLITICAL ISSUE WITHIN FRANCE.

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## Message Attributes

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